

Trotter Review

Volume 6

Issue 2 *Race and Politics in America: A Special Issue*

Article 10

9-21-1992

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Recommended Citation

Horton, Harold (1992) "Ron Daniels: Profile of a Presidential Candidate," *Trotter Review*: Vol. 6: Iss. 2, Article 10.

Available at: http://scholarworks.umb.edu/trotter_review/vol6/iss2/10

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Ron Daniels: Profile of a Presidential Candidate

by
Harold Horton

The mass media has said very little about it, but Ron Daniels, an African American, is a presidential candidate. In 1988, Daniels was the southern regional coordinator and deputy campaign manager for Jesse Jackson's campaign. Daniels, a veteran social and political activist as well as former director of the National Rainbow Coalition, declared his candidacy for president at a news conference October 14, 1991.

From 1974 to 1980, Daniels served as president of the National Black Political Assembly and in 1980, he was the chairperson of the founding convention of the National Black Independent Political Party. Daniels was the convener of the African-American Progressive Action Network (AAPAN). He writes a weekly column, *Vantage Point*, published in more than one hundred African-American and progressive newspapers nationwide.

Daniels delivered a major address at the annual banquet of the Boston Black Political Task Force on July 31, 1992, at Roxbury Community College. It was clear from his remarks as well as from my observations that Daniels is a person of courage, conviction, and confidence.

Why Run for the Presidency?

In a brochure announcing a national call to attend the People's Progressive Convention that was held August 21-23, 1992, in Ypsilanti, Michigan, Daniels stated that, "every four years...it has become clear that no matter which establishment party candidate for president wins, we will get the lesser of two evils. We do not get what our country desperately needs...We need fundamental change in the economic and political structures of our society...For no matter who wins, the quality of our lives continues to deteriorate."

A Grassroots Movement That Seeks Change

At the August convention, Daniels proclaimed, "We will no longer tolerate our disenfranchisement by those in power, and we will take steps to unify into an ongoing, united, independent,

permanent, grassroots movement. ...And while the People's Progressive Convention cannot be expected to launch a third party, it can be a vehicle to demonstrate our intention to come together and build a movement capable of uniting around a collective program and taking action to bring about real change."

And, in an article of May 11, 1992, that appeared in *Vantage Point*, "The Rodney King Verdict: No Justice, No Peace," Daniels made the following statement:

The verdict in the Rodney King trial reaffirmed for the world what Africans in America already know, that racism is alive and well in the U.S...that black people have no rights which a racist and exploitative system is compelled to respect. ...Hence, the battle cry which reverberated throughout this nation and the world was "no justice, no peace." For nearly twenty-five years the masses of black people, minorities, poor and working people in the inner cities have been abandoned, neglected, and left to suffer peacefully. Now the bitter harvest of racism, abandonment, and neglect has come to fruition..."

Ron Daniels's Goal for a New America

The Ron Daniels for President Campaign for a New Tomorrow quoted the candidate in a news release issued June 15, 1992:

...the tasks of building a political movement...must be taken up by scores of community-based leaders and progressive activists from around this nation. It is the goal of our independent campaign for president to gather up and galvanize the broadest possible spectrum of people willing to join in this endeavor. As Malcolm X once put it, "it will either be freedom for everybody or freedom for nobody." A new America must be born in which the needs of human beings, not the narrow pursuit of profit, property, and materialism will be the priority of government and economy.

Daniels is off and running for the presidency of the United States. He is well aware of his chances of winning the race. However, this is America, and he has decided to exercise one of his rights as an American citizen. We must exercise ours, and vote for the person of our choice.

For further information about the Ron Daniels Campaign for a New Tomorrow write to P.O. Box 27798, Washington, D.C. 20038-7798.

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